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LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am transmitting to you herewith a letter dated 28 June 1991 which Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established under section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), has just sent me. You will no doubt wish to bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ de CUELLAR

Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 28 June 1991 from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to inform you that on Friday, 28 June 1991, the Iraqi military authorities denied an International Atomic Energy Agency/United Nations Special Commission team immediate access to a site designated for inspection by the Special Commission under paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). The circumstances are described below.

The inspection team, under its Acting Chief Inspector, Mr. David Kay, and accompanied by an Iraqi Liaison Officer, proceeded to a military transportation facility situated east of Fallujah on the morning of 28 June. On arrival at the site, Mr. Kay presented the formal notification of the site to be inspected to his escorts. At that time he also requested that there should be no movement whatsoever of transport or equipment from the site pending the inspection.

While awaiting for permission to enter, the team observed vehicles within the compound loaded with the objects which they specifically desired to inspect under the terms of the Security Council resolution. After some minutes, drivers were seen moving quickly to the vehicles which then began leaving the facility through an exit to the south.

A small number of the team members were directed by the team leader towards that exit to observe and photograph the vehicle movements. At that time the Iraqi military fired small arms into the air and efforts were made to seize the cameras. These actions took place despite the fact that all team members were clearly identifiable as United Nations personnel and that the vehicle was painted white and carried United Nations markings.

Although the team did not gain access to the site, they were able to take photographs of the vehicles and their cargoes leaving the site. After the departure of the vehicles, the team returned to the area of the main gate. The camp commander appeared and stated that while he would like to allow the team to enter, he had no orders to do so. The Acting Chief Inspector responded by stating that he had no option but to report to his superiors that the team had been denied immediate access to the site, that equipment had been removed contrary to his request, and that he had been obstructed from carrying out his duties in accordance with the Security Council resolution. He particularly and strongly protested the use of firearms.

I have informally relayed the above information to the President of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rolf EKEUS
Executive Chairman
Special Commission